

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-32 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 7, 12, 15, 17-19, 23, 24, 27, 28, 31, and 32 being the independent claims. Claims 15, 17-19, 23 and 26 are amended. Minor informalities were corrected in the specification. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Claim 15 is amended to define the invention even more clearly. Claims 17-19 have each been cast in independent form including limitations of claims from which they originally depended.

Claims 23 and 26 were amended in accordance with the suggestion of the Examiner; however, Applicants respectfully submit these amendments are cosmetic and do not constitute narrowing amendments.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Objections to the Drawings

The Office Action set forth several objections to the drawings. *Office Action*, pg. 2, items 1-6. Applicants submit proposed drawings changes to Figures 2, 4, 6A-6F, and 7A. Figure 2 is amended to change reference numeral 210 to 240 for Application CPU and add a label "Interfaces" before reference numeral 208. FIG. 4 is amended to

delete unnecessary reference numerals 446, 448, and 472 and add reference numeral 434, and add a label "Audio Channel Processor" before reference numeral 308a. Boxes 307a, 307b are identified by separate brackets and a label "Packet Processor" is added before reference numeral 307a. For each of FIGs. 6A-6F, a label "Call Control and Audio Feature Manager" is added before reference numeral 302. Finally, a label "Prior Art" is added to Fig. 7A. Replacement sheets including currently amended figures are submitted herewith. Approval of these drawings changes is respectfully requested.

Applicants further note that contrary to the assertion in the Office Action, descriptive wording "Card Processor" and "DSP" is already present in FIG. 4 for the grouped items identified by reference numerals 478, 480.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that each of the drawing objections be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publ. Appl. No. 2002/075879 to Ramey ("Ramey"). Claims 16, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Ramey. Applicants respectfully traverse each rejection.

Technical differences exist between the switching in Ramey and that in the present invention. Ramey describes a gateway adapter 40 for a PBX system 12. A control unit 54 "responds to a control signal generated from the PBX system [12] to switch from one audio stream to another stream." Ramey, para. 60, lns. 14-17. In an example, a user can input sets of tones to switch through a set of audio streams. Ramey,

para. 60, lines 22-24. The switching in Ramey determines which audio stream is to be delivered to a telephone on a PBX. Even if for the sake of argument, the audio streams in Ramey are assumed to arrive in packets, Ramsey does not teach or suggest noiseless switching including transmission of synchronous packets carrying audio from first and second audio streams on an egress audio channel as in the present invention. Claim 15, as amended, recites *inter alia* that “said switch switches and delivers said first and second audio streams to said network interface controller which controls the transmission of synchronous packets carrying audio from the first and second audio streams on the egress audio channel over the network” - which is not taught nor suggested by Ramey.

Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, claim 15 is patentable. Dependent claims 16, 21 and 22 are patentable for at least the same reasons, and further in view of their own respective features.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for an early indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 1-14, 24, 25, and 27-32 were allowed. Claims 17-20 were indicated as being allowable if re-written independent form including all of the limitations of the claims from which they depended. Claims 17-19, as amended, are now cast in independent form including all of the limitations of the claims from which they previously depended. Dependent claim 20 is patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 19 from which it depends, and further in view of its own respective features.

Claims 23 and 26, as amended, now overcome the claim objections and are allowable.

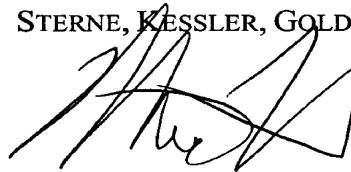
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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